A steady hand in a turbulent year

Our work this past year and what we expect in the year ahead to protect wilderness, wildlife, and water.
From global challenges like climate change to local challenges like drilling encroachment at Chaco Canyon, our natural world has never faced so many diverse threats. Yet we remain hopeful at New Mexico Wild that our role in protecting the natural treasures of our beautiful state will make a meaningful difference.

Our work often finds us behind the scenes meeting with federal agency staff, advising on forest plans, and collaborating with conservation partners. However, we also need to take our story to the public as we are doing with our Gila Wild Campaign to protect the rivers in and around this remarkable Southern New Mexico wilderness.

Thank you for your support of New Mexico Wild during this past year. This annual report will provide highlights of the good work we do on your behalf for wilderness, wildlife, and water. You are helping “keep it Wild!”

Nancy Morton
Board Chair

Mark Allison
Executive Director
While the threats to our natural world have been expanding, our work to counter those challenges has increased as well. Here are just a few of the many successes that your New Mexico Wild contributed to in 2018.

**EXPANSION OF SABINOSO WILDERNESS**
The Department of Interior has added approximately 3,600 acres to the 16,030-acre Sabinoso Wilderness east of Las Vegas, New Mexico. Created in 2009, Sabinoso has been surrounded by private property, making it the only “landlocked” wilderness area in the country. This marks the first expansion of a wilderness area in the country by the Trump administration and the culmination of a nearly decade-long effort to provide access to the public by New Mexico Wild and our partners.

**WILDERNESS RANGER PROGRAM GROWS**
In partnership with the U.S. Forest Service Southwestern Region, New Mexico Wild placed ten young wilderness rangers in forests across the state including Cibola, Santa Fe, Carson, and Lincoln National Forests. The rangers’ work included wilderness character monitoring, trail assessments, trail clearing, campsite rehabilitation, public outreach and wilderness education.

**AN IMPORTANT WIN FOR JEMEZ SPRINGS**
After a two-year fight to “Save Our Springs” from proposed geothermal development, the Forest Service has determined that 195,000 acres of the Jemez Mountains adjacent to the Valles Caldera National Preserve, and originally including parts of nine Inventoried Roadless Areas, will be off limits to geothermal energy. The Forest Plan will now be amended to preclude geothermal leasing in the Jemez Ranger District. This represents a significant victory for New Mexico Wild, the All Pueblo Council of Governors, our partners and everyone who cares about this beloved and extremely sensitive riparian area.

**CELEBRATING THE 50th ANNIVERSARY OF THE WILD & SCENIC RIVERS ACT**
New Mexico Wild worked this year to get rivers in and around the Gila Wilderness designated as “Wild & Scenic” to offer additional conservation protections. Congress passed this act in 1968 to preserve selected rivers with outstanding natural, cultural, and recreational values in a free-flowing condition for the enjoyment of present and future generations. Our work has put us on the path to finally and forever protecting New Mexico’s last free flowing river from dams, diversions, and development.

**HOSTED 2018 OUTDOOR ECONOMIC CONFERENCE**
In May, New Mexico Wild hosted a wildly successful New Mexico Outdoor Economics Conference in Las Cruces, which celebrated the importance of public lands to the economic health of communities. Over 200 attendees had the opportunity to hear speakers from all over the West, learn about the need for a state office of outdoor recreation, and visit with outdoor retailers. Senator Martin Heinrich gave the keynote address on the inextricable link between conservation and growing the Western economy. Planning for next year’s conference in Silver City is already underway.
The year ahead promises to hold some exciting opportunities to protect our state’s natural treasures and also will create some new risks. Here are a few of the issues we are monitoring or actively planning to address.

PROTECTING CHACO
U.S. Senators Tom Udall and Martin Heinrich introduced the Chaco Cultural Heritage Area Protection Act, a bill to withdraw the lands around Chaco Canyon from further oil and gas development. The bill would ensure the protection of the greater landscape surrounding the Chaco Culture National Historical Park by preventing any future leasing or development of minerals owned by the U.S. government that are located within a protected radius around Chaco. Chaco is being threatened by expanding energy development.

INCREASED DRILLING IN CARLSBAD AREA
If there is one swath of land that holds the most promise for President Trump’s vision for energy dominance, it might be southeast New Mexico. The 6-million acre region includes part of the Permian Basin, which stretches into west Texas and is expected to produce more oil than any other nation except Saudi Arabia by 2023. In August, the Bureau of Land Management released a 1,500-page draft of a new management plan for the New Mexico side of the basin that will determine how its resources will be used for the next 20 years and beyond. That draft included a disappointingly small number of acres of wilderness values. New Mexico Wild is fighting for a plan that includes stronger protections for the critically-threatened natural areas around Carlsbad.

FIGHTS CONTINUE TO SAVE THE GRAY WOLF
New Mexico Wild continues to fight in federal courts for the future of the Mexican gray wolf, the single most endangered mammal in North America. The wolf population in Southwest New Mexico and Southeast Arizona has stalled at about 114, due to illegal killings, and lacking political will. One of the most recent battles was over the so-called “McKittrick Policy” that directs U.S. attorneys not to prosecute defendants who kill endangered species if they cannot prove the person knew the exact biological species they were harming. Though we lost our case in the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals, legal work continues on this and other cases to protect these wolves.

PREVENTING AIR FORCE FLY-OVERS IN THE GILA
The Air Force has proposed a plan to conduct 10,000 fly-overs annually above the Gila National Forest including the Gila and Aldo Leopold Wilderness Areas. These training flights would be conducted as low as 500 feet above the forest and would include dropping 30,000 magnesium flares and toxic “defensive chaff.” Senator Martin Heinrich has joined the cause launched by New Mexico Wild last year to stop this fly-over plan. The senator has called on the Air Force not to expand airspace over the Gila and conduct trainings in more appropriate areas. This issue will continue as an important area of advocacy for New Mexico Wild in the coming year.

STATE ISSUES
We are looking to increase our already robust work with the New Mexico State Legislature by leading efforts to create a law similar to the National Environmental Policy Act, which would apply to state agencies and would require them to conduct environmental assessments and notify the public when projects would have an impact on the environment. We are also working on the creation of an office of outdoor recreation, and significant reform to New Mexico’s Game Commission, among other issues.
We invest in the New Mexico Wilderness Alliance because, having grown up exploring New Mexico’s wild lands, we want to help protect them so the next generation can have the same opportunity. It often feels like a single person can’t make a difference, but when we pool our resources through organizations like New Mexico Wild, we can!

—Naomi and Raphael Clancy

Voices of Support

Thousands of supporters allow New Mexico Wild to continue our work to protect wilderness, wildlife, and water in our state. Thank you for your trust!

WILDERNESS PROTECTIONS
Upgrading the status of public lands by developing long-term legislative or administrative protections. This includes place-based campaigns, grassroots organizing, and advocacy with elected officials.

WILDERNESS DEFENSE
Improving the management of public lands. This includes a range of legal oversight and “watchdog” activities to hold agencies continuously accountable for managing public lands consistent with relevant statutes, regulations, rules, and plans.

WILDERNESS OUTREACH, EDUCATION, AND STEWARDSHIP
Sharing the love of the Wild. This includes public outreach, education, and outreach to expose all ages to the wild heritage of our public lands in New Mexico.

At a Glance
What we worked on in 2018

Thank you to our donors

Listed below are the generous donors who gave to New Mexico Wild in fiscal year 2018. All donations, no matter the size, are important to supporting our mission.

We both came to New Mexico close to 50 years ago and were attracted by the natural scenic beauty of the state. It is our hope that future generations will continue to have the ability to enjoy unspoiled areas. We firmly believe that New Mexico Wild plays a vital role both in identifying areas for protection and fighting for legislation to preserve those areas. New Mexico Wild’s active programs for exploring New Mexico are a great benefit to all residents and we are glad to support the efforts of the organization and their dedicated staff.

—Kathy Rinehart and David Lindner

Our Income: $1,586,384

Government 11%
National Foundations 34%
Grassroots Donors 54%

Our Expenses: $1,269,791

Fundraising 10%
Administration 12%
Wilderness Defense 15%
Wilderness Protection 24.5%
Wilderness Outreach 38.5%

*Unaudited 10/1/2017 - 9/30/2018

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New Mexico Wild Annual Report 2018
YOUR SUPPORT makes a difference. Thank you!

The New Mexico Wilderness Alliance is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) grassroots organization dedicated to the protection, restoration, and continued enjoyment of New Mexico’s wildlands and wilderness areas. Founded in 1997, we achieve our mission through administrative protection, federal wilderness designation, and ongoing stewardship. We have a membership of individuals from all corners of New Mexico and across the nation. Our organizing efforts span the state and involve many diverse groups, including ranchers, sportsmen, land grants, acequia communities, tribal and religious leaders, scientists, youth, and community leaders. We are the largest, homegrown, grassroots advocacy organization focused exclusively on land conservation and wilderness in New Mexico.

Background: Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument


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